Uttar Pradesh as per details given below:—

Name of Bank Group	No. of Branches
Regional Rural Banks	2852
Public Sector Banks	4465
Private Sector Banks	225
Foreign Banks	2
TOTAL	7544

(c) and (d) Under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, RBI has upto 31.12.1987 allotted 729 centres to various banks in Uttar Pradesh for opening branches during the Policy period as the details given below:—

Name of Bank Group	No. of centres allotted
Regional Rural Banks	291
Public Sector Banks	432
Private Sector Banks	6
TOTAL:	729

RBI has advised the banks that branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy. Annual targets for opening branches have not been prescribed. As such, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the number of branches that will be opened by banks during the year 1988-89 in various districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Settlement of claims by the LIC

766. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of claims made for the payment of insurance and assurance policies in the country before the LIC during the last two years alongwith the amount of money involved;

(b) what is the number of claims still pending before the LIC alongwith the amount of money involved; and

(c) by when these claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The number of claims intimated to the LIC and the respective amount involved therein during the last two financial years are as under:

Year	Number (in lakh)	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1985-86	13.63	722.02
1986-87	14 48	827.64

(b) 64,829 claims for the total amount of Rs. 50.76 crores were pending for payment as on 30.6.1987.

(c) The settlement of claims is a continuous process. The LIC endeavours to settle all outstanding claims with the least possible delay provided the preliminary requirements for settlement of claims are completed by the claimants and there are no rival claims or other difficulties beyond the control of LIC.

Raw silk production

767. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the estimated percentage of increase in the cultivation of Mulbeery for raw silk production in the country at the end of the Seventh Plan as against the target, if any;

(b) by what percentage the raw silk production in the country will increase as a result thereof;

(c) the percentage of raw silk demand at present met from indigenous production; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government so far in the field of research and development of sericulture and its extension activity in the country and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) As compared to the position at the end of VIth Plan, the targets set for Seventh Plan envisage increase of 28.12 per cent in the area under mulberry cultivation and 44.74 per cent in mulberry silk production. It is estimated that these targets will be achieved.

(c) It is estimated that at present about 80 per cent of the demand of raw silk is met from indigenous production.

(d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments so encourage the development of the silk industry, the Central Silk Board has established the following major units in the country for R & D and Extension support:

(i) 3 Central Sericulture Research & Training Institute.

(ii) 1 Central Technological Research and Training Institute.

(iii) 15 Regional Sericulture Research Stations.

(iv) 64 Research & Extension Centres.

(v) 21 Silkworm Seed Production Centres under the National Silkworm Seed Project.

As a result of research achievement in a span of ten years average per hectare productivity of raw silk has increased from 25 Kgs to 32.5 Kgs. In addition, the renditta has been cut down from 17 to 10, that is; 10 Kgs. of cocoons produces one Kg. of raw silk as compared to 17 Kgs. of cocoons producing 1 Kg. of Silk earlier.

Nationalisation of Scindia Steam Navigation Company

768. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have under their consideration a proposal for the nationalisation of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company as reported in the Economic Times, New Delhi of the 8th January, 1988;

(b) whether the study by the Ministry on this issue has been completed; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding the future of Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. is receiving attention of Government.

Central Trade Service

769. SHRI M. KADHARSHA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Trade Service, whose officers are manning the various Offices under the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, is an Organised Group 'A' Service;